



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018

No. 19

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 29, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE JOHNSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

1984 IS 2018?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recorded conversations, warrantless surveillance of citizens, and government invasion of privacy—it sounds like a page out of George Orwell's novel "1984." I don't know if you read this in high school or not, but my generation did. We never thought that this would ever take place in America. It is a book about Big Brother government.

To quote Orwell, here is what he says about government:

Always eyes watching you and the voice enveloping you. Asleep or awake, indoors or out of doors, in the bath or bed—no escape.

It talks about government eyes watching America. But it is happening here in America, Mr. Speaker, behind the closed doors of government intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

Big Brother, in my opinion, is watching. How? Through a piece of legislation called the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA. FISA allows our government to spy on foreign agents, including terrorists, primarily overseas. The government collects all of this information and puts it into a database. If government wants to use or search the database, they go to a secret FISA court, and that court issues a secret warrant to search the database.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade and a former judge and a prosecutor, I want government to go after terrorists overseas who seek to harm Americans; nab them, lock them up, and get rid of them.

What is of disturbing concern, Mr. Speaker, is government uses these database communications, texts, and emails of Americans to gain information on them and spy on them without a real probable cause warrant. That is one reason I did not vote to reauthorize FISA. This is a direct violation of Americans' Fourth Amendment rights.

For years, I have worked to rein in FISA's abuse of Americans' constitutional rights, and now we are learning more about FISA. And it is not good news.

Recently, Members of Congress were given access to a top secret memo by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence regarding the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The memo outlines improper conduct of government, and its contents are extremely disturbing.

The Justice Department and the FBI oppose the release of this memo with-

out their permission. The Justice Department wants to black out, or redact, portions of it even though they haven't even seen the memo. They don't want the public to know what is in it. They think that the American people "can't handle the truth," to give a quote from Jack Nicholson.

The reality is these agencies would prefer to continue operating in secret, behind the closed, locked doors of intrigue and surveillance. Mr. Speaker, this is exactly why the memo should be released.

A transparent government, Mr. Speaker, is a good thing. That revolutionary idea sounds to me like something our Founders envisioned when they drafted the Fourth Amendment. Remember, the Bill of Rights was intended to protect us from government.

Despite the protests of those who wish to offer up our privacy on the altar of national security, keeping this memo secret does not make us any safer.

It is clear, Mr. Speaker: Release the memo to the press and to the public. Let the public and the media know what is happening by our government behind the dingy, dark rooms of secrecy. The memo is proof evident that government cannot be trusted.

Ironically, the new FISA bill signed into law attempts to protect Americans from foreign terrorists but denies Americans the right to have their privacy protected in our homeland. This is not the America our Founders envisioned.

The memo speaks for itself. Let the American people see the memo. Government has been watching America's conduct. Now it is time we watched the conduct of government.

As George Orwell said in his book "1984," in the eyes of Big Brother government, "Ignorance is strength."

Well, government may think so, but, Mr. Speaker, ignorance of the people is not a strength; it is a weakness. The

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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spying eyes and improper acts of Big Brother need to be revealed.

And that is just the way it is.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GROTHMAN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You not only design but create. You sustain and shape what we know as reality. In Your hands, as the craftsman and artist, we are instruments for the time You have given us. Fitting into the palm of Your hand, we can accomplish Your will and produce what You have in mind for us, or we can prove unfit to achieve Your purpose for the tasks at hand.

Almighty God, help the Members of this people's House to see themselves as instruments in Your hands, shaping the time in which we live. As well, enable them to see in each other that same creative impulse and responsibility.

Only by relating to each other as Yours can we find our true identity, work together, and truly give You the greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ADMINISTRATION'S IMMIGRATION PROPOSAL IS FLAWED

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the administration's immigration proposal is flawed. It doesn't include workforce verification, which would protect jobs for American workers and reduce illegal immigration.

The proposal grants amnesty to twice as many people as President Obama did. It gives amnesty today but delays legal immigration reforms until a distant tomorrow. For example, the elimination of chain migration won't occur for 17 years, if then.

The proposal is also ripe for fraud. Illegal immigrant adults can claim they arrived as children, but there is no practical way to confirm that.

The immigration plan is not a good deal for the American people. Immigration policy should put the interests of American workers first.

REBUILD AMERICA'S CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow President Trump will give his first State of the Union Address. It is an opportunity for the President to demonstrate leadership and bring to this floor a discussion for both parties to come together and pass, number one, a long-term budget that reflects the priorities of the American people.

I have come to this floor many times to express my disagreement with this President on a number of issues. I have disagreed on his efforts to take away healthcare for millions of people, adding costs to people I represent who have health insurance. I have disagreed with his tax policies and disagree vehemently with the policies enacted here, and I am going to continue to speak up when I find disagreement.

But I also look for areas where we can work together, and it is my hope that tomorrow the President will articulate one of those: a plan to deal with America's crumbling infrastructure, especially in America's older cities. It has been over a year since the President was here and laid out his plan for a big investment plan and a strategy on infrastructure.

Words are cheap. We need action. We need something specific. And I am hoping and willing to work with the President if he lays forward such a vision.

CONGRATULATING LYN GARLING

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate farmer-educator Lyn Garling for being selected as the 2018 recipient of the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture's PASAilities Award. The award honors businesses and indi-

viduals who make meaningful contributions to sustainable agriculture in the State and beyond.

For the past 20 years, Lyn Garling of Rebersburg has owned and operated Over the Moon Farm in Centre County. Over the Moon specializes in organic hay, broilers, hogs, and turkeys.

Lyn has traveled widely, teaching ecology in Nicaragua and conducting biological studies in Costa Rica and Mexico. She has earned her bachelor's degree in zoology and has worked on an 80-cow, 800-acre dairy farm in Colorado. She has spent decades as a program director for the Pennsylvania Integrated Pest Management Program at Penn State University, and she is widely known for helping growers at all scales understand and manage pests on their own operations.

Lyn has also worked as an independent organic inspector for Pennsylvania's Certified Organic and has served several terms on PASA's board of directors.

I wholeheartedly congratulate Lyn on this well-deserved recognition, and I thank her for all of her contributions to the industry.

PROTECTING VETERANS FROM DEPORTATION

(Ms. BARRAGÁN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my guest for the State of the Union, Marco Chavez. Marco Chavez is a veteran who served this country honorably, came home, and was deported to Mexico.

Mr. Chavez was born in Mexico. He was brought to California as an infant. He served in the Marine Corps as a lawful permanent resident before being deported. California Governor Brown granted him a full and unconditional pardon for a minor crime he had done, but he was separated from his family for 16 years.

It is an injustice that our veterans can go and serve overseas and that this is how we treat them when they come home after serving this country, many of whom put themselves in harm's way. That is why I have introduced the Veterans' Pathway to Citizenship Act, which will make it easier for deported veterans to return to the United States and ensures that Active-Duty servicemembers don't leave the military without understanding their options for naturalization.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives: